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(54) PROCESS FOR STERILIZING, FILLING AND SEALING CONTAINER

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To fill and close a container after sterilization by sterilizing an entire surface of a filling tube protruding into a sterilization chamber and an internal wall of the sterilization chamber, and by supplying sterile gas to the sterilization chamber for generating a pressure required for filling the container.

SOLUTION: An external surface 27 of a filling tube 23 provided inside a sterilization chamber 8 is sterilized. In addition, an internal wall 9 of the sterilization chamber 8 is made sterile. After a high frequency generator 12 generates low pressure plasma to sterilize a container 1, the sterilization chamber 8 is vented with sterile gas by a coupling part 30 until a pressure suitable for filling the container 1 is reached. Inert gas can be used as the sterile gas, while a sterilizing filter 31 may be provided at the coupling 30 to make sterile. Thereafter, the container 1 is closed with a closure element 6 by handling a holder 20 under a sterile condition. Thus the container 1 can be closed in a sterile condition after being sterilized.

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